

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00156 081224Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 SSM-03 AID-05 IO-13 SY-05  
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /083 W  
-----081226Z 113704 /13

R 081200Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1232  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0156

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SY  
SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON ASSASSINATION OF ALAWITE  
SECURITY OFFICIAL IN ALEPPO

REF: DAMASCUS 0127

1. GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE REPORTED JANUARY 6 THAT ALI MAHANNA (HIS PRONUNCIATION), ALAWITE SECURITY OFFICIAL IN ALEPPO KILLED AROUND DECEMBER 28, WAS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO SECURITY CHIEF, MUHAMMAD DUBBA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, DUBBA UNDERSTOOD FRM MAHANNA'S DEATH THAT HE HAS BEEN TARGETED FOR ASSASSINATION AND QUICKLY SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION WHICH, SOURCE ADDED, WAS ACCEPTED. SOURCE SPECULATED KILLING OF MAHANNA AND SOME OTHER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS--PRINCIPALLY THOSE AGAINST BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBERS HADID, AHMAR AND KHAYRAT IN OCTOBER 1976,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00156 081224Z

AND POSSIBLY OTHERS--RESULT OF INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE AMONG FACTIONS IN REGIME WHICH EMPLOYING THEIR ASSETS IN SECURITY APPARATUS FOR ACTIONS INVOLVING VIOLENCE.

2. ALAWITE MILITARY OFFICER TOLD ITALIAN EMBOFF JANUARY 6 THAT HIS COUSIN HAD BEEN ASSASSINATED RECENTLY IN ALEPPO AND THAT TWO OTHER ALAWITE OFFICERS KILLED IN PAST FEW

DAYS. OFFICER SAID HE WORRIED ABOUT HIS OWN PERSONAL SAFETY AND EXHIBITED PISTOL HE CARRYING FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION.

3. REGULAR SOURCE REPORTED BOMB EXPLOSION JANUARY 4 IN BUILDING BEHIND HEJAZ RAILWAY STATION DOWNTOWN DAMASCUS. SOURCE OBTAINED INFO FROM LAWYER WHOSE OFFICE AMONG THOSE DESTROYED BY BLAST.

4. COMMENT: SPECULATION THAT SOME ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS MOTIVATED BY INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE NOT YET PROVEN AND MUST BE ADDED TO THEORIES THAT IRAQIS AND/OR MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD BEHIND INCIDENTS. MUHAMMAD DUBBA IS BROTHER OF BRIG. ALI DUBBA, CHIEF OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE. LATTER IS OF PRES. ASAD'S MOST TRUSTED LIEUTENANTS.  
MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BOMBING, ASSASSINATION, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC00156  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770008-0312  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaacieg.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1007b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DAMASCUS 127  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3638158  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FURTHER INFORMATION ON ASSASSINATION OF ALAWITE SECURITY OFFICIAL IN ALEPPO  
**TAGS:** PINS, SY, IZ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1007b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009